Amendments to the Specification:

Amend paragraph [0002] as follows:

[0002] Submersible motor-driven pumps are already known from the general state of the art. If they are installed in a pond ~~or a liquid medium~~ without freeze protection, they must be removed from their site of installation in the wintertime and stored where they are protected from freezing. In a submersible pump, an impeller is usually connected by a ceramic shaft to a motor, which drives the impeller when the pump is being operated.

Amend paragraph [0004] as follows:

[0004] In the winter, ~~the liquid medium, which is not frostproof,~~ water freezes solid from the surface towards the bottom. If, for example, a submersible motor-driven pump spends the winter in a garden pond, it can freeze during a period of freezing weather. A submersible motor-driven pump of this type contains pond water that has remained in the housing since the last operation of the pump or has subsequently penetrated the chambers of the housing. This water slowly freezes solid from top to bottom and exerts pressure on the generally horizontally oriented shaft. When the ice formation in the housing progresses downward, and the water below the intake pipe, which is arranged laterally and concentrically with the shaft, also expands, the actual risk of fracture of the shaft due to freezing begins, especially in the case of a ceramic shaft.

Amend paragraph [0005] as follows:

[0005] Therefore, the objective of the invention is to develop a submersible motor-driven pond pump that can remain in ~~a liquid and freezing medium~~ water, even during periods of freezing weather, without sustaining any damage.

Amend paragraph [0009] as follows:

[0009] Another advantage is that the anti-freeze device comprises a water displacer, which is arranged concentrically to the shaft or shaft axis X in free spaces. In particular, depending on the shaft length, there is a large free space in the can between the elastic bushing and a part of the motor that forms a rotor. The water displacer occupies a space in which ~~the liquid medium and especially~~ the freezing-susceptible pond water would otherwise collect and would exert pressure on the shaft. The water displacer thus keeps the water away from the shaft.

Amend paragraph [0018] as follows:

[0018] Figure 1 shows a schematic longitudinal section through a submersible motor-driven pump 1 in its working or operating position. A motor housing 3 is connected with an intake pipe 5 at one of its end faces (left side in Figure 1). The intake pipe 5 is part of an intake housing 7, on which a ~~pump~~ discharge connection 9 and a ~~discharge connection~~ drain hole 11 are also formed. An impeller 13, which is mounted on a shaft, especially a ceramic shaft 15, is installed in working connection with the intake pipe 5 and the ~~pump~~ discharge connection 9 in the intake housing 7. The ceramic shaft 15 has a shaft axis X, which, in the illustrated operating position, extends in an essentially horizontal direction into a can 17, which

is installed in the housing 3. The ceramic shaft 15 is supported at the junction between the intake housing 7 and the can 17 in a ceramic bearing 19, which in turn is supported in an elastic bushing 20. A water displacer 23, which fills a structural free space, is formed concentrically on the ceramic shaft 15 between the ceramic bearing 19 and a rotor 21 located on the ceramic shaft 15 in the can 17. The water displacer 23 preferably extends the same radial distance from the shaft axis X as the rotor 21, so that a more or less uniform air gap 24 is formed between the inner wall of the can 17 and the rotor 21 and water displacer 23. The air gap 24 can have a width of, for example, 0.2 mm. The motor further includes a stator 4 fixed to the housing 3 outside the can 17.

Amend paragraph [0019] as follows:

[0019] The ~~discharge connection~~ drain hole 11 is located at the lowest point of the region of the submersible motor-driven pump 1 that contains water ~~or other liquid medium~~ and is separated from this region in the vertical direction by an elastic diaphragm 25. The left half of Figure 2 shows how the elastic diaphragm 25 is undeformed under normal pressure conditions of the water ~~or other liquid medium~~. The right half of Figure 2 shows how the elastic diaphragm 25 is deformed by ice pressure when the ~~liquid medium~~ water freezes.

Amend paragraph [0025] as follows:

[0025] In the ~~second~~ embodiment ~~in~~ of Figure 4, an annular space 190 is formed by an annular housing 191 arranged in front of the intake housing 70 in the direction of the intake pipe ~~150~~ 50. In ~~the second~~ this embodiment ~~with the annular space 190~~, the intake pipe 50 is screwed onto the intake housing 70. Other types of joints are also conceivable. A

compressible water displacer 210 is installed in the annular space 190. It consists, for example, of a closed-cell foamed plastic or a similar material that is well known from the state of the art. An air-filled membrane, similar to an expansion vessel in a heating system, is also conceivable, for example.